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To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to thank the FCC for its continued support of the E-Rate program. This program provides critical discounts to assist educational organizations in obtaining affordable telecommunications services and Internet access.

The E-Rate Program is succeeding in this mission. As the FCC moves forward with this NPRM, it is prudent to remain focused on the fact that E-Rate is a program that works and that any changes to the program should be focused on expanding a successful program that has yet to reach its full potential

The E-Rate Program, with some relatively minor modifications, can be the most effective tool employed to help our nation reach President Obama's goals as delineated in his ConnectEd K-12 Broadband Initiative, with four adjustments:

1. Perhaps the most important modification is to increase annual funding of this program to \$4.5 billion permanently, with an ongoing adjustment for inflation so more schools and libraries will receive these much-needed discounts to continue enhancing their network connectivity to meet the needs of our nation's students.
2. Restore the original technology-neutral E-Rate framework by removing the priority system funding cap. By restoring technology-neutral funding priorities, applicants will have the flexibility to choose the most cost-effective solutions that will meet their unique, local needs.
3. Place reasonable limits on the annual amount of E-Rate discounts available to any single applicant. By placing limits on the total discounts available to individual applicants, the FCC will be encouraging thoughtful, cost-effective decision making. Overall funding shortages will decrease, and E-Rate discounts can be applied more effectively to the eligible goods and services that each applicant needs the most.
4. Streamline the E-Rate application process. Currently, an applicant must complete six different forms every year for each good or service applied for. In addition, time must be spent every year in staff receiving training to learn and understand the changes to the program from the prior year. In a school district of 3,200 students I have been forced to incur the additional expense of consultants who have acquired expertise in navigating the E-Rate application process. Simplification of this process could significantly ease the administrative burden applicants currently face.

In conclusion, thank you for the E-Rate program that provides a vital service to our students of our nation and the opportunity for input.

Sincerely,

Wendy S. Tukloff  
Superintendent

CC: Board of Trustees & Cabinet  
Pacifica School District